

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TAIWAN UPRISING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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SUMMARY: PEKING'S CELEBRATION OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 1947
TAIWANESE UPRISING INDICATES A MORE CONFIDENT CHINESE
POSTURE TOWARDS EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION OF TAIWAN. MISSING
FROM THIS YEAR'S SPEECHES IS THE 1974 IMPLICATION OF A
MILITARY ROLE IN REUNIFICATION. INSTEAD, THE EMPHASIS
WAS ON INCREASED CONTACTS BY TAIWAN RESIDENTS WITH THE
MAINLAND AND GROWING SUPPORT IN TAIWAN FOR REUNIFICATION.
THE US ROLE ON TAIWAN WAS NOT EXPLICITLY MENTIONED AND
TAIWAN AFFAIRS WERE TREATED ESSENTIALLY AS AN INTERNAL
ISSUE WHICH WILL BE EVENTUALLY RESOLVED BY THE CHINESE
THEMSELVES. END SUMMARY.

1. NCNA THUS FAR HAS CARRIED ONLY THE SPEECH BY LIAO CHENG-
CHIH AND A COMPOSITE WRAP-UP OF THE OTHER SPEECHES AT
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THE ANNUAL PEKING CELEBRATION OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 1947

TAIWAN UPRISING. THERE APPEARS TO BE A MARKED DEEMPHASIS OF THE THEMES OF 1974 SPEECHES IN WHICH THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY ROLE IN REUNIFICATION WAS PROMINENT. THIS YEAR, THE HIGHLIGHT WAS ON COMPATRIOT-TO-COMPATRIOT CONTACT, CALLS FOR VISITS TO THE MAINLAND AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ALL PATRIOTS ON TAIWAN TO WORK HARDER TO ACHIEVE REUNIFICATION.

2. PERHAPS IT WAS CONSIDERED UNNECESSARY TO DISCUSS THE MILITARY ASPECT OF REUNIFICATION. REPRESENTATION AT THE PEKING MEETING WAS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER RANKING THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WITH DEFENSE MINISTER YEH CHIEN-YING AND MILITARY COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN HSU HSIANG-CHIEN, I. E. MILITARY OFFICIALS, AS THE RANKING ATTENDEES. NEITHER WERE LISTED AS SPEAKERS AND LIAO CHENG-CHIH PERFORMED HIS ANNUAL TASK AS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER.

3. LIAO'S THEME WAS THE INEVITABILITY OF REUNIFICATION. HE STRESSED THE GROWING NUMBERS OF TAIWAN RESIDENTS WHO HAD VISITED THE MAINLAND AND URGED GREATER NUMBERS TO COME BACK TO SEE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. IN CONTRAST WITH THE PRC'S 1973 CALL FOR THE CHIANG GOVERNMENT TO SEND A DELEGATION FOR OFFICIAL TALKS, LIAO NOW SUGGESTS THE PEOPLE ON TAIWAN ARE THEMSELVES BYPASSING GOVERNMENTAL OBSTACLES AND MOVING INCREASINGLY TO UNITE AND ASSOCIATE WITH THE MAINLAND. HE POINTED OUT TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FOURTH NPC AND NOTED THAT FOUR OF THE 12 TAIWAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE ELECTED TO THE PRESIDUM AND TWO TO THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE. REITERATING HIS 1974 REMARKS TO MAINLANDERS ON TAIWAN, HE ASSERTED THAT "PATRIOTS ARE MANY, TRAITORS ARE BUT FEW" IN REFERENCE TO THEIR DESIRE FOR REUNIFICATION. WHILE LIAO IS SOMEWHAT LESS HARSH THIS YEAR IN CRITICIZING THE "CHIANG CLIQUE," HE POINTS OUT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ON TAIWAN AND COMPLAINED THAT THE CHIANG CLIQUE WAS STEPPING UP ITS CONFUCIUS WORSHIP TO "HOODWINK" THE TAIWANESE. HE ALSO CONDEMNED "FORMER JAPANESE MILITARISM" FOR THE JAPANESE SANKEI SHIMBUN PUBLICATION OF CHIANG'S "SECRET MEMOIRS."

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4. ALTHOUGH LIAO PROVIDED THE STANDARD PRC RHETORIC ON GREAT DISORDER IN THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND CONDEMNED THE SUPERPOWERS' ATTEMPTS AT HEGEMONY, HE DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY THAT "A HANDFUL OF ANTI-CHINA AND ANTI-COMMUNIST DIEHARDS ABROAD" CAN SUCCESSFULLY PUSH "PLOTS FOR TWO CHINAS, ONE CHINA, TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF TAIWAN."

5. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IS OF A CONFIDENT CHINA,
CAPABLE OF REALIZING ITS AIM OF REUNIFYING TAIWAN WITH
THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, WITH OPPOSITION TO THIS
INEVITABLE REUNIFICATION BEING SMALL AND DECREASING.
IN KEEPING WITH THIS THEME, TAIWAN IS TREATED BY LIAO
ENTIRELY AS AN INTERNAL MATTER AND, AS IN 1974, US
INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN ARE NOT MENTIONED.
LIAO, HOWEVER, REPEATS THE THEME USED IN THE PAST
TWO YEARS THAT THOSE IN TAIWAN CANNOT "RELY ON IMPERIAL-
ISM TO PROLONG THEIR DYING BREATH."
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